

Contact: John Burk, Director of Communications
Phone: 724-871-7888
Mobile: 724-261-8119

Advanced Energy Center Open House Set for Sept. 18 in American Falls

AMERICAN FALLS, ID, Sept. 7 -- Area residents will have an opportunity to provide comments and ask questions concerning the proposed Power County Advanced Energy Center at an Open House in American Falls Tuesday, Sept. 18.

Officials of Southeast Idaho Energy (SIE) will be available at the Power County EMS-American Falls Fire Department Building from 10:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. to discuss the project.

John Burk, SIE's director of communications and community participation, said the Open House "is part of a continuing effort to make sure that everyone in the area has an opportunity to talk with us about the Center. We want our facility to be a positive addition to the community, and we want to be good neighbors."

In late June, SIE announced plans to build the \$2 billion Center, which will use advanced coal gasification technology to produce fertilizers and ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel. The plant is to be located on more than 450 acres in the heavy industrial zone southwest of American Falls and immediately south of Lamb Weston.

In late July, the company submitted its Air Permit Application to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) for Phase 1 of the two-phase project. Based on the results of detailed computer modeling completed for the application, the Center will operate well below federal and state government limits established to protect human health and the environment.

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In Phase 1, SIE plans to install one gasifier. It will be used to produce more than 4,000 tons of nitrogen-based fertilizers and more than 58,000 gallons of diesel per day.

SIE hopes to receive an air permit from DEQ next year and then begin construction in the fall. Startup of Phase 1 is planned for 2011-12.

Construction will require 750-1,000 workers. The Center is expected to create 150 well-paying operations jobs.

Burk said the company is committed to hiring locally and will work with local institutions to create a training program for the operations positions.

“Please join us on September 18 for the Open House,” Burk said. “We want to hear from you, and we want to answer your questions. And we’ll have some refreshments too. We look forward to seeing you.”

Additional information on the Open House is available by contacting Burk at j.burk@rehinc.com or at 724-871-7888.